



Situational Awareness Report

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New Jersey Suspicious Activity Reporting Overview – 1st Quarter 2014

24 April 2014

(U//FOUO) NJ ROIC Intelligence & Analysis Threat Unit ~ ROIC201404-01020T

First Quarter NJSARS Reporting – Executive Summary

(U//FOUO) During the period of January 1 through March 31, 2014, the Counter Terrorism Watch Desk at the New Jersey Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROIC) received 315 incidents through the New Jersey Suspicious Activity Reporting System (NJSARS). The key findings are as follows:

- Of the 315 reported incidents, federal law enforcement agencies pursued 113 leads (36%).
- The three counties with the highest number of incidents in NJSARS during this period were Bergen, Union and Hudson. They were followed by Camden, Burlington and Middlesex counties.
- The most frequently reported type of incident in NJSARS during this period was suspicious persons, categorized as expressed or implied threats and material acquisition, followed by lost/stolen IDs and bomb threats.
- By sector, the highest number of incidents in NJSARS during this period was Commercial followed by Transportation and Education/Schools.

Methodology

(U//FOUO) Please note that NJSARS reporting may not indicate actual trends, but may reflect the reporting practices of individual agencies.

(U//FOUO) The information cut-off date for this product is April 4, 2014 – SARs reported after that date are not included in this analysis. Some SARs from the previous quarter may be included in the second quarter 2014 analysis due to delays in reporting. It is our assessment that this small number of SARs would not significantly affect the analysis.

Significant Events

(U//FOUO) The month of January saw the highest number of incidents reported. The spike in reporting may be attributed to the high visibility and media coverage surrounding Super Bowl XLVIII and affiliated events taking place in New Jersey.

(U//FOUO) In January 2014, a Russian student at Penn State's satellite campus in Altoona, Pennsylvania, was arrested and charged with possessing a weapon of mass destruction, risking a catastrophe, and several other drug and weapons offenses. Vladislav Miftakhov, age 19, of Moscow, Russia, was under investigation for a reported marijuana-growing operation at his apartment, when police found a suitcase holding two containers with exposed fuses and other explosives-related materials. The devices were later dismantled by Pennsylvania State Police technicians. Miftakhov said that he had experimented with the devices in California, but never in Pennsylvania, and he had not planned on blowing up anything.¹

(U//FOUO) Also in late January 2014, 19-year-old Darion Marcus Aguilar entered a shopping mall in Columbia, Maryland armed with a shotgun that he assembled in a dressing room. He proceeded to shoot

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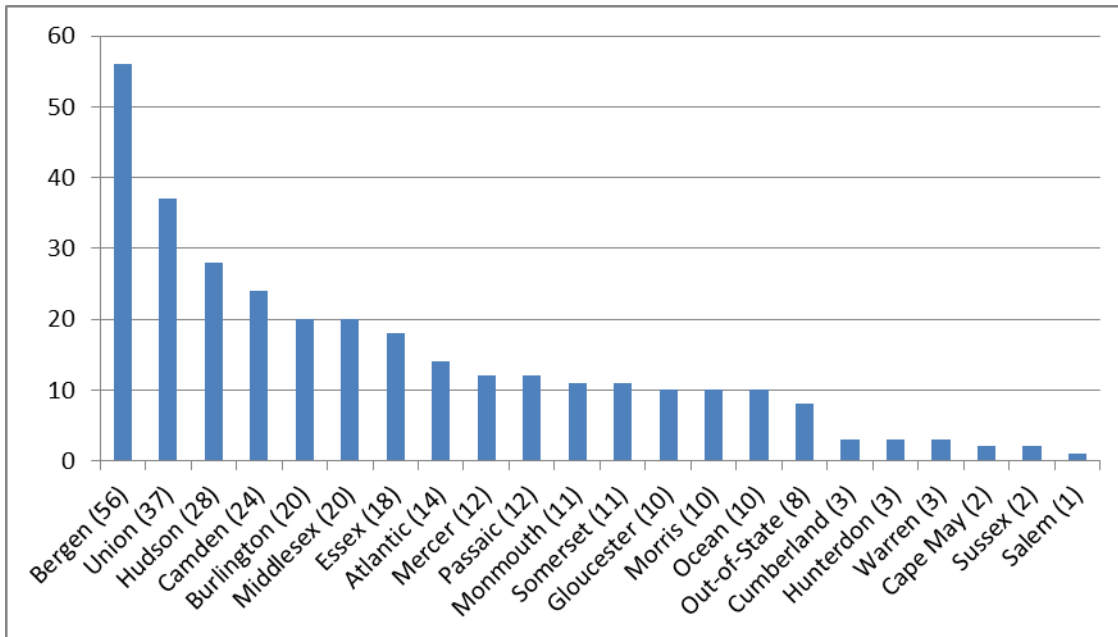
and kill two employees at random then stepped out of the store, fired several more shots, and injured five additional victims before committing suicide. In addition, further investigation revealed crude explosive devices were found in his bag. In March, Howard County Police confirmed that Aguilar had no connection to his victims and modeled his attack after the Columbine High School shooting.²

(U//FOUO) In February 2014, members of the Atlanta, Georgia, Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) arrested three men in Cartersville, Georgia, on federal firearms and explosives charges. According to a criminal affidavit, Terry Eugene Peace, 45; Brian Edward Cannon, 36; and Cory Williamson, 28, of Rome, Georgia, were part of a group that was planning to target the US government, including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The affidavit stated that task force agents had intercepted chats in which group members claimed that they were planning to "strategically sabotage power grids, transfer stations, and water treatment facilities."³

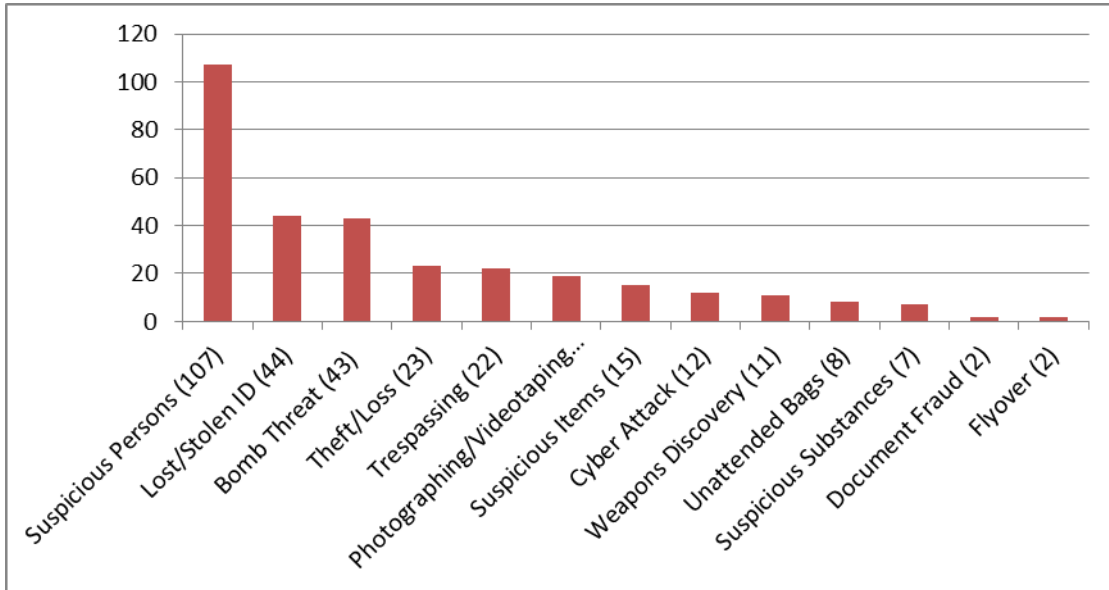
Trends in SARS Reporting

(U//FOUO) During the period of January 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014, the CT Watch Desk at the NJ ROIC received 315 incidents through NJSARS. Federal law enforcement agencies pursued 113 of the reported incidents, or 36 percent of the total number of reported NJSARS.

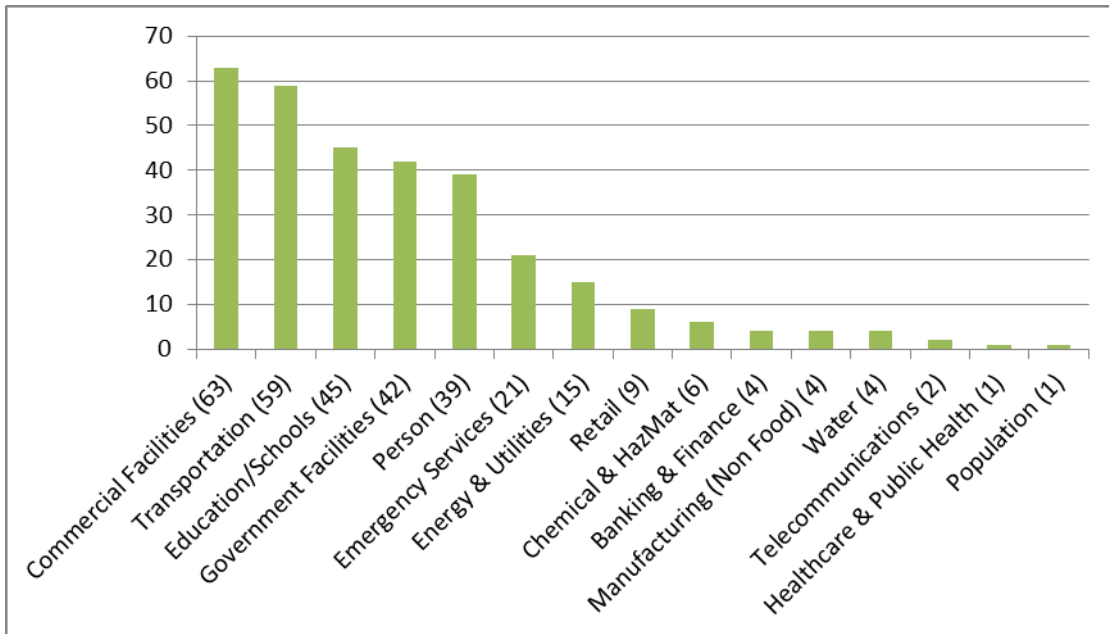
(U//FOUO) NJSARS reports were examined to identify quantities of reporting by county. The three counties with the highest number of incidents in NJSARS during this period were Bergen, Union and Hudson. They were followed by Camden, Burlington and Middlesex counties.



(U//FOUO) The most frequently reported type of incident in NJSARS during this period was suspicious persons, categorized as expressed or implied threats and material acquisition, followed by lost/stolen IDs and bomb threats.



(U//FOUO) By sector, the highest number of incidents in NJSARS during this period was in the Commercial Sector, followed by Transportation and Education/Schools ranking second and third.



Outlook

(U//FOUO) The NJ ROIC has no specific or current information regarding a threat to New Jersey; however, large-scale events scheduled to take place in the state will likely generate a large amount of attention and draw international, national, and regional interest, which may create potential targets of opportunity for international and domestic terrorist groups. Individuals or terrorists could attempt to utilize these high-profile/high-visibility events as a stage to make a statement or otherwise further their goals.

(U//FOUO) Homegrown violent extremists (HVEs) remain the highest threat to New Jersey. They are difficult to detect; but are also poorly trained and unsophisticated, and their attacks usually are less lethal than those of organized terrorist groups.

Suspicious Activity Reporting

(U//FOUO) Any suspicious activity with a possible nexus to terrorism in New Jersey should be reported immediately following existing protocols specific to respective counties. Activity can also be reported to CT Watch located at the ROIC at (866) 4SAFENJ (866-472-3365) by dialing 2-1-1 or Tips@NJHomelandSecurity.gov.

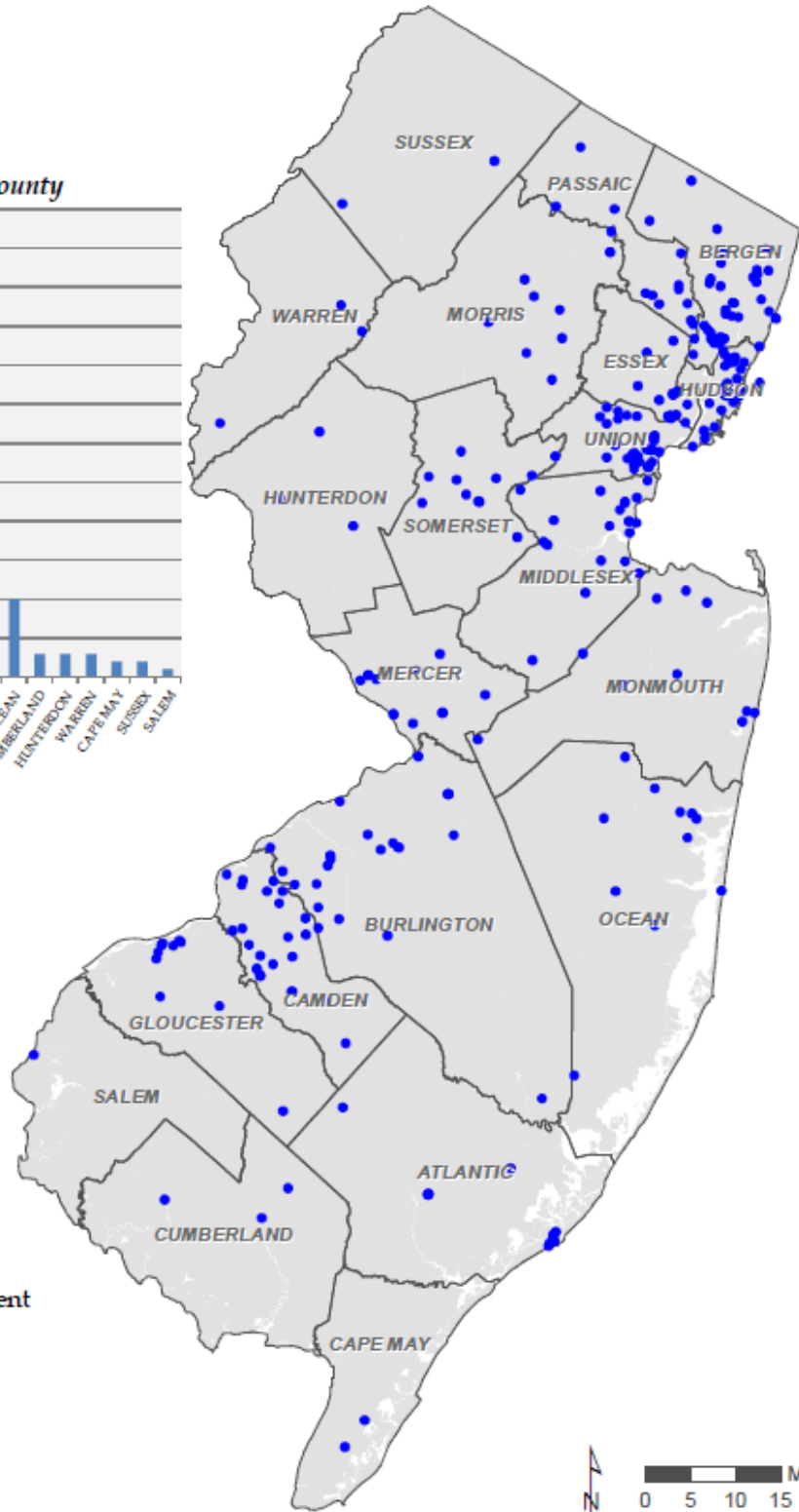
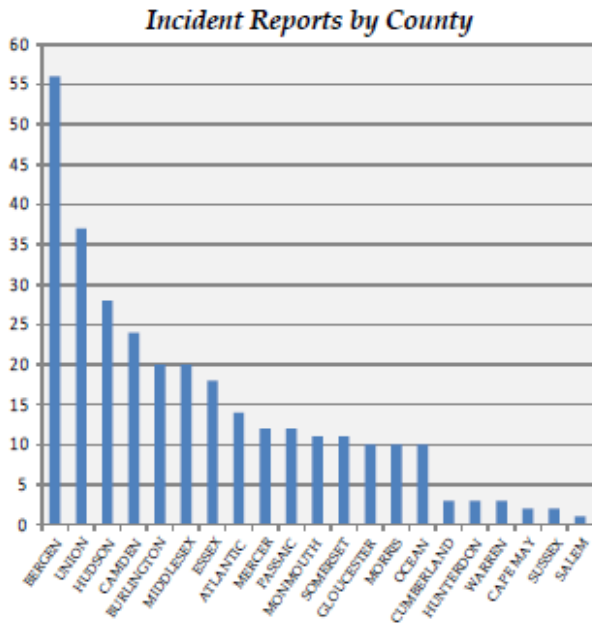
(U//FOUO) Any agency with information or comments/questions about this document should contact the NJ ROIC Intelligence and Analysis Threat Unit at (609) 963-6900, ext. 6243, or email at njroicanalysis@gw.njsp.org.

¹ (U) USA Today, "Pa. College Student Charged With Building WMDs," January 26, 2014. Available online at: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/01/26/college-student-bomb-building/4916181/>

² (U) The Baltimore Sun, "Police Say Columbia Mall Shooter May Have Had Fixation with Columbine," March 12, 2014. Available online at: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2014-03-12/news/bs-md-ho-columbia-mall-shooting-conference-20140312_1_columbia-mall-brianna-benlolo-dressing-room

³ (U) AJC.com, "3 in Custody after FBI Operation in Cartersville," February 15, 2014. Available online at: <http://www.ajc.com/news/news/3-in-custody-after-fbi-operation-in-cartersville/ndQKn/>

1/1/2014 - 3/31/2014
Incident Locations



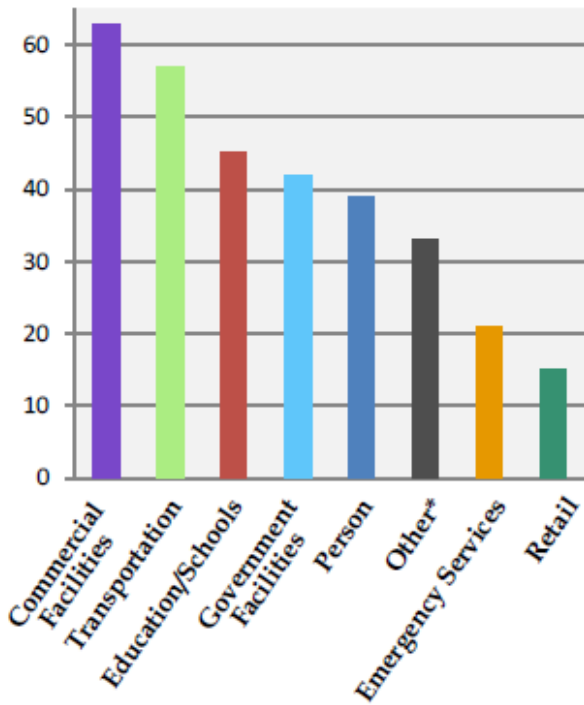
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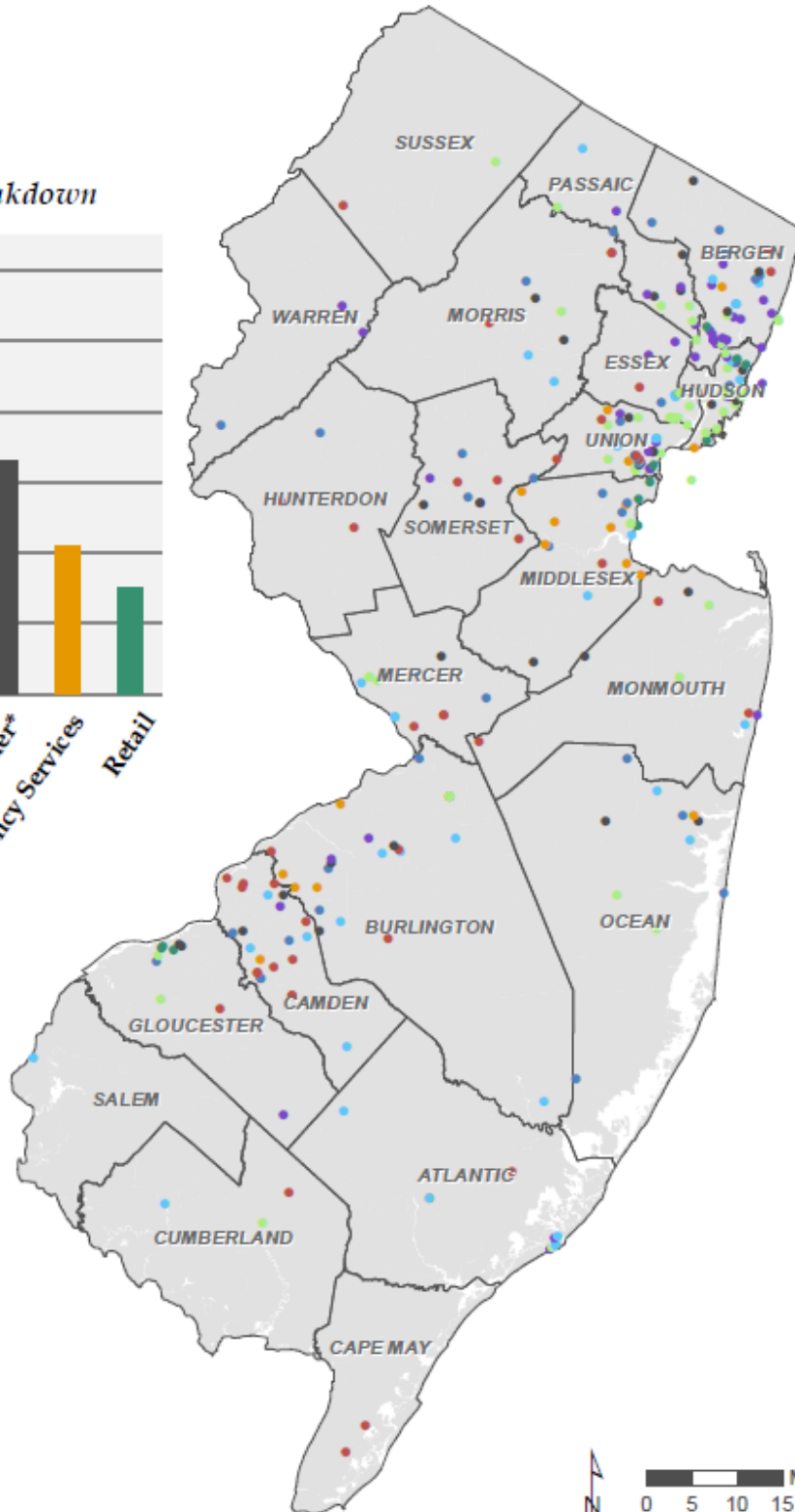
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**1/1/2014 - 3/31/2014:
Incident Locations by Sector**

Incident Sector Breakdown



* Refers to incidents that fall into additional sector types.



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